



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Lava Beds  
National Monument

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# Lava Beds National Monument News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 18, 2015**

## **NPS Welcomes New Chief Ranger**

TULELAKE, California— Lava Beds National Monument and the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument would like to welcome new Chief Ranger David Hansen to the Tule Lake Basin. He follows Radford Dew who took a position at Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas.

The chief ranger position is a critical position to the protection of park resources and relationship with park neighbors and stakeholders. Hansen comes to the park with a variety of experiences that will support his efforts to communicate with park neighbors and the general public about park resource protection issues.

"I am excited to rejoin the dedicated team at Lava Beds and the Tule Lake Unit and further explore the amazing resources of the area that I just began to learn about during my detail there this past winter," says Hansen.

After growing up in the Midwest and enjoying backpacking trips in the national parks and mountains of the west, Hansen began his land management career in 2002 as a US Forest Service wilderness ranger in the Wind River Mountains' Fitzpatrick Wilderness. Hansen has worked for the National Park Service for more than 10 years, beginning as a seasonal law enforcement ranger in Yosemite in 2003. He also served at Kings Canyon, Grand Canyon, and most recently at Bryce Canyon National Parks. Hansen graduated with distinction from Iowa State University with a BA in Political Science.

Hansen is very familiar with his new job. He most recently spent four months acting as the Lava Beds National Monument and Tule Lake Unit Chief Ranger.

Hansen enjoys foreign travel, reading, and a variety of outdoor activities including competitive bicycling events, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Hansen is also looking forward to living closer to his partner, Katie Johnson, who works at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

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“He brings a wealth of talent and experience in emergency services, as well as a personal passion for history and the high desert environment, like that found here in the Tule Lake Basin,” says Superintendent Mike Reynolds.

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Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8113, email [labe\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:labe_interpretation@nps.gov), or go to [www.nps.gov/labe](http://www.nps.gov/labe). Like us on Facebook; follow us on Twitter!

The Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, established in 2008, is a nationally significant site dedicated to telling the story of the cost of war on the home front and the lasting effects of the unjust incarceration of over 29,000 US citizens and long-term residents of Japanese ancestry at the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

For more information about visiting the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, call 530-260-0537, email [tule\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tule_interpretation@nps.gov), or go to [www.nps.gov/tule](http://www.nps.gov/tule). Like us on Facebook; follow us on Twitter!

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